

Appln. No. 10/561,626

Attorney Docket No. 12400-045  
Client Reference No. AFK 27596-WO-US**II. Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraphs [0014], [0016], [0019], [0022], [0023], [0024], [0025], [0026], [0027], [0035], and [0036], with the following amended paragraphs:

[0014] The present invention also provides a method of mounting an inflatable curtain in position in a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of utilising utilizing a fastener as defined above, inserting the end cap of the fastening fastener as a frictional fit into a threaded bore and subsequent subsequently tightening the bolt into the threaded bore.

[0016] FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic side view of an air-bag in the form of a so-called "inflatable curtain" when in the inflated condition;

[0019] FIGURE 4 is a side view of an end cap to be mounted in on the bolt of Figure 3;

[0022] Referring initially to Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings, the cabin of a motor vehicle 1 is illustrated showing, diagrammatically, an air-bag 2 in the form of an "inflatable curtain". The air-bag 2 is divided into a plurality of substantially vertical chambers or cells by seams provided within the air-bag air-bag 2, and the air-bag air-bag 2 is dimensioned to be received initially within a channel recess 3 which extends along the A post 4 of the vehicle, along the roof line 5 above the door openings and part way down the C post 6. Air-bags of this type are well known.

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[0023] Figure 2 illustrates part of the upper edge 7 of an inflatable curtain air-bag 2, showing that the air-bag air-bag 2 is provided with a plurality of spaced apart apertured lugs 8 and 9.

[0024] When the inflatable curtain air-bag 2 is to be mounted in the motor vehicle vehicle, typically typically, the inflatable curtain is in the form of a package subassembly, with the mounting lugs 8 and 9 protruding from the package. The mounting lugs 8 and 9 are to be aligned with corresponding threaded apertures formed in the A post 4, roof line 5, and C post 6 of the vehicle, and bolts are to be passed through the apertures and the apertured lugs to be engaged with the corresponding threaded apertures in the vehicle. It may be require considerable manual dexterity for a single operative to hold the subassembly package air-bag in position and locate the bolts appropriately.

[0025] Figures 3 through 6 illustrate a fastener which may facilitate the task of the mounting air-bag 2 to vehicle 1.

[0026] The fastener includes of a bolt 10 which is provided, in the described embodiment, with a separated end cap 20. The end cap 20 has radially outwardly directed flanges adapted to effect a friction fit with a threaded bore dimensioned to receive the threaded part of the bolt.

[0027] Thus, in using the fastener of this invention, each fastening fastener may be swiftly engaged with a threaded aperture simply by inserting the end cap cap

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20 into a threaded aperture. Subsequently Subsequently, the bolt 10 may be tightened in the conventional way.

[0035] It is to be appreciated that when a fastener of the kind shown in Figures 3-6 ~~are~~ is used to secure an inflatable curtain air-bag 2 in position, each fastener may relatively easily be passed through an aperture formed in lugs 8 and 9 provided on the inflatable curtain air-bag 2 so that the end cap 20 ~~become~~ becomes frictionally engaged within the threaded bore which is provided to receive the appropriate bolt. There is no need to ensure that the threading on the bolt 10 is aligned with the threading in the aperture and there is no need to rotate the bolt 10. A simple axial movement of the bolt 10 will force the end cap 20 into the threaded bore. The fact that the terminal flange 25 is of relatively small diameter will make it easy for that flange to become aligned with the bolt 10. The gradual increase in the sizes of the flanges ~~22~~ flanges ~~23~~ will facilitate the subsequent insertion of the end cap 20 into the threaded bore. The chamfering 28 provided at the leading edge of each flange 23 will facilitate a flexing of each flange as it is inserted into the bore, thus ensuring a good frictional grip between the flanges and the bores.

[0036] When all of the ~~fastener~~ fasteners have been inserted in position in this way, the frictional grip effected by the ~~fastener~~ fasteners to the threaded bores provided in the motor vehicle will be sufficient to hold the inflatable curtain air-bag 2 in position. Using a spanner, and applying further axial pressure, the threaded shank 12 of the bolt 10 of a ~~fastening~~ fastener may then be brought into engagement with the threaded aperture and the bolt may be ~~fastening~~ fastened in the conventional manner.

